

# 2017 WAVE RISING SERIES

## Artists Bio

**OPENING NIGHT: Friday, July 7th at 8:30PM**



OPENING NIGHT: LaneCoArts | Mei Yamanaka | Oniin Dance | Miki Orihara | VADCO/Valerie Alpert Dance | WHITE WAVE Dance

### **LaneCoArts (Searching for a Phase Change)**

After completing her BFA and MFA at the Purchase College Conservatory of Dance, Lane Gifford founded LaneCoArts in 2006. In collaboration with artists in a variety of disciplines, by a process of interchange and cross-pollination, LaneCoArts explores communication in today's technology-driven world. Ms. Gifford's work seeks to engage today's audiences through meaningful social commentary in her physically-charged dance dramas. LaneCoArts performances include Jacob's Pillow, Baruch Performing Arts Center, Bryant Park Festival, and the Boston Center for the Arts. Commissioned projects include fellowships by University of Kansas, Southern Utah University, and the Joffrey Ballet School. Ms. Gifford was selected as a Finalist for the 2015 Western Michigan University National Choreography Competition. Upcoming events are scheduled for the Gibney Dance Center, and residencies at Kaatsbaan International Dance Center and Missouri Valley College.

### **Mei Yamanaka (now now)**

Mei Yamanaka, a dancer and choreographer originally from Tokyo, relocated to New York in 2008. Since that time, she has worked with Tiffany Mills Company, Jennifer Archibald, Mark Dendy. She also has worked with Dai Jian, Katy Pyle, Mana Kawamura, Palissimo, Oui Danse, Malcolm Low, Jenni Hong, Emily Berry and White Wave Young Soon Kim Dance Company among others. Ms. Yamanaka's choreography has been featured, among many others, at Fresh Tracks, Movement Research at Judson Church, Performance Mix Festival, New Steps, Dumbo Dance Festival, COLLABOFEST, and GAP Presents|Shared Space.

Misuzu Hara, also from Japan, began her training in classical ballet at age 3, and in modern jazz dance as a teen. She continued her studies at Showa Academy of Music College in Japan, where she majored in classical ballet. Upon graduation, Ms. Hara taught ballet and dance technique in high schools, while at the same time, performed across Japan. After relocating to New York in 2009, Misuzu has been working with Jennifer Archibald, OUI Danse, Jenni Hong Dance, and the Mark Morris Dance Group, WHITE WAVE Young Soon Kim Dance, Nathan Trice, Oliver Steele, and Max Stone.

### **Oniin Dance Company (COR-O2, PHONÈ (W))**

In 2012, choreographer Daniela Rapisarda founded the Oniin Dance Company in her native Italy. Under Ms. Rapisarda's direction, the Company soon garnered international success, gaining recognition for its fresh, dynamic style, and has created a wide repertoire in collaboration with choreographer and dancer Alessandro Vacca, a founding member. The Company has created and produced a number of acclaimed original works, including "Corruption" (2012), "Omaggio a Morricone" (2012), "Oniriko" (2013), "Phonè W" (2014), and "Phonè M" (2015), and "Taijitu" (2016). ODC has been commissioned to choreograph for several international dance companies, our newest, "Bataclan/13" (2016), was composed for the Certificate Program of Peridance Capezio Center, New York.

The Company's productions and workshops, a staple of the European dance scene, have since been performed in New York, Seoul, Miami, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Shanghai. From 2012 to 2014, the Company was in residence at the "Teatro delle Celebrazioni" in Bologna (Italy), and currently operates Oniin/2, our pre-professional company in New York.

### **Miki Orihara (Broken Memory)**

Miki Orihara is best known for her work as a principal dancer in the Martha Graham Dance Company, which she joined in 1987. In addition to performing the Graham repertory, she has worked closely with the renowned Japanese-American dancer, choreographer and director, Yuriko, preserving her unique approach to Graham Technique. Ms. Orihara has performed in the Broadway production of *The King and I*, with the Elisa Monte, Dance Troupe, Twyla Tharp, Martha Clarke, Theatre of Yugen (SF, CA) and Robert Wilson. Ms. Orihara has presented her original choreography in New York and in Tokyo, as a guest artist for Japan's New National Theater. Teaching credentials include numerous workshops in Japan, Art International in Moscow, Peridance, the Ailey School, New York University, Florida State University, Henny Jurriëns Stichting (Netherlands), Les Etés de la Danse (Paris), and New National Theater Ballet School. Miki-san is on faculty at the Graham School, The Hartt School (U. of Hartford) and Barnard College (Columbia U.). As Regisseur, Miki has been staging Martha Graham's works worldwide, including Diana Vashineva's "Dialogue," and for Wendy Whelan of New York City Ballet.

### **VADCO/Valerie Alpert Dance Company (Until Home)**

Valerie Alpert Dance Company produces high-quality works that engage communities, both local and global, in the relevance of contemporary dance, providing audiences of all ages with dances that challenge the imagination. VADCO continually advances dance through innovative collaboration with artists of all disciplines, including composers and animators. VADCO has touched thousands of people with powerful dance works. Ms. Alpert explains: "*Until Home*" was inspired by my fascination with "walking palms" (*Socratea exorrhiza*), rainforest trees with unique root systems that allow these trees to move toward sunlight, based upon changing climate. I was struck by the parallels of trees virtually walking in order to survive, and the current plight of Syrian refugees. Population displacements have occurred throughout history, and yet I marvel at man's perseverance to migrate long distances to find a safe home. The determination to survive is the basis of this work.

### **WHITE WAVE Young Soon Kim Dance Company (Excerpts from "iyouswe")**

Founded in 1988, WHITE WAVE Young Soon Kim Dance Company has dedicated over 29 years broadening the boundaries of modern dance. The company is committed to creating a union between the natural rhythms of the planet and the primal essence of the human spirit. Incorporating music, poetry, and several forms of visual arts, the company's vision is expansive, constantly challenging the threshold of each medium to build unique perspectives. Artistic Director Young Soon Kim creates works with a reverence and awe for new directions that expand the language of movement, while reaching into the deepest recesses of the imagination, passion, and the spirit to create new expressions of dance.

"iyouswe" (I-You-Us-We) was born from an exciting collaboration between WHITE WAVE's artistic director, Young Soon Kim, and our nine dazzling dancers over the past 12 months. The provocative scored to original music by longtime collaborator Ki Young, a "borderless musician." It is an uninterrupted 65-minute journey that challenges us to examine who we are, how we relate to ourselves, and to each other. It's a story of developing relationships by which we struggle to find a sense of 'i' as part of a 'we.' The world premiere of "iyouswe" was presented at the 2017 La MaMa Moves! Dance Festival in May, and we will be showing excerpts for this year's Wave Rising Series. After launching the 2018 season at the Vancouver International Dance Festival, the full-scale production of "iyouswe" will tour East Asia, including a 3-city circuit in Korea. For more information about WHITE WAVE Dance, please visit [www.whitewavedance.com](http://www.whitewavedance.com).